IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method for measuring an analyte, which comprises a reaction step of forming a reaction system including a sample containing whole blood, a first substance carried by a solid carrier and specifically binding to an analyte contained in the sample and a second substance specifically binding to the analyte and allowing the analyte to react with the first and second substances and a measurement step of measuring a formed reaction product, wherein

(1) the reaction step is performed in a state that blood cells are not disrupted; and

(2) at least the reaction step is performed in the presence of a sufficient amount of a detergent that does not cause hemolysis, does not inhibit reactions of the analyte with the first and second substances specifically binding to the analyte and can prevent influence on the reaction system of a component existing in the reaction system.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan ester type detergents and sulfobetaine type detergents.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the concentration of the detergent in the reaction system is in the range of 0.1 to 10%.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the sample containing whole blood contains whole blood and a whole blood treatment solution, and the whole blood treatment solution contains a sufficient amount of a detergent that does not cause hemolysis, does not inhibit reactions of the analyte with the first and second substances specifically binding to the analyte and can prevent influence on the reaction system of a component existing in the reaction system when the whole blood treatment solution is mixed with whole blood.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the detergent is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan ester type detergents and sulfobetaine type detergents.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the concentration of the detergent in the whole blood treatment solution is in the range of 0.1 to 50%.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein the ratio of whole blood and the whole blood treatment solution is in the range of 99:1 to 5:95.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 4 to 7~~ claim 4, wherein the whole blood treatment solution further contains the first substance specifically binding to the analyte.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction step of allowing the analyte to react with the first and second substances comprises a first reaction step of allowing the first substance to react with the sample containing whole blood to form a first reaction product and a second reaction step of allowing the second substance to react with the first reaction product to form a second reaction product.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the second substance is labeled with a labeling substance.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the first and second substances specifically binding to the analyte are antigen or antibody.

Claim 12 (Original): A method for measuring an analyte in whole blood, which comprises:

(1) a dilution step of diluting whole blood by mixing the whole blood with a whole blood treatment solution;

(2) a first reaction step of adding a first substance carried by a solid carrier and specifically binding to the analyte to the diluted whole blood and allowing them to react to form a first reaction product in a reaction system;

(3) a first separation step of separating the first reaction product formed in the first reaction step from the reaction system;

(4) a second reaction step of adding a second substance specifically binding to the analyte to the separated first reaction product and allowing them to react to form a second reaction product in a reaction system;

(5) a second separation step of separating the second reaction product formed in the second reaction step from the reaction system; and

(6) a measurement step of measuring the separated second reaction product, wherein

the whole blood treatment solution contains a sufficient amount of detergent that does not cause hemolysis, does not inhibit reactions of the analyte with the first and second substances, and can prevent influence on the reaction system of a component existing in the reaction system in each step when the solution is mixed with the whole blood.

Claim 13 (Original): The method according to claim 12, wherein the second substance is labeled with a labeling substance.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to claim 13, wherein the first and second substances specifically binding to the analyte are antigen or antibody.

Claim 15 (Original): A reagent kit for measuring an analyte in whole blood, which comprises a first substance carried by a solid carrier and specifically binding to the analyte, a second substance specifically binding to the analyte and a detergent which does not cause

hemolysis and does not inhibit reactions of the analyte with the first substance and the second substance when it is mixed with whole blood.

Claim 16 (Original): The reagent kit according to claim 15, which further includes a whole blood treatment solution.